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A NEW SPECIES OF ACMAEODERA FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

(Coleoptera, Buprestidae)

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Acmaeodera ephedrae Barr, new species

Medium-sized, robust. Head and pronotum unicolorous, aeneous black, shining. Elytra straw colored, suture, umbones and outer margins cupreous brown. Under surface uniformly, closely punctate throughout and densely clothed with what appears to be a dense felt-like tomentum; prosternal margin slightly retracted from anterior pronotal angles; last abdominal segment evenly rounded without a subapical carina.

Head rather deeply, coarsely punctate, reticulate, matted with short, silvery white, recumbent hairs, thinning out on vertex, two denuded areas just above antennal insertions; clypeus rather deeply emarginate, finely punctate, sparsely covered with short, suberect, whitish hairs; antennae abruptly serrate beginning with fifth segment, extending to hind margin of pronotum.

Pronotum widest at basal fourth, slightly wider than elytra, slight trace of median depression, convex, shallowly, coarsely, punctate, reticulate, densely covered with short, silvery-white, recumbent hairs except on disk which is sparsely covered with long, white, subrecumbent hairs; anterior margin sinuate, as wide as base; basal margin slightly emarginate; side margins obsolete, not visible from above.

Elytra with sides strongly sinuate behind umbones, middle not as wide as base, evenly rounded to blunt apex; margins of apical third serrate; striae well pronounced, stria punctures deep, rather small, separated by their own width or less than their own width, striae distinctly separated by more than width of stria puncture, interspaces with small punctures rather widely separated, each small puncture giving rise to a short, white, suberect, setiform hair.

Legs with femora densely clothed with long, silken, white, recumbent hairs and dense, felt-like tomentum; tibiae and tarsi more sparsely clothed with silken, white, recumbent hairs.

Length, 7.8 mm.; *width*, 2.8 mm.

Holotype in author's collection, collected five miles north of PALM SPRINGS, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, July 2, 1941 (W. F. Barr). A single specimen was collected from *Ephedra*.

This species belongs in the 'truncate group' and in Fall's key¹ will run to *Acmaeodera neglecta* Fall and the immaculate forms of *A. quadrivittata* Horn. However, it is only distantly related to these species. *A. ephedrae* is most closely allied to the recently described species, *A. fisheri* Cazier, *A. barri* Cazier, and *A. palmarum* Timberlake. It also bears a superficial resemblance to *A. discalis* Cazier from which it may easily be distinguished by the finer elytral punctures, sinuate sides of elytra, lack of vittae and by the presence of the dense felt-like tomentum on the ventral surface. *A. ephedrae* differs from *A. neglecta* and *A. quadrivittata* in that it is larger, more convex and sinuate, has coarse, shallow, reticulate pronotal punctures, and has a different type of vestiture beneath. In separating *A. fisheri* from *A. ephedrae*, the latter species is more convex, the pronotum is more densely punctured with the disk containing long, silky, subrecumbent hairs and the elytra are immaculate. *A. ephedrae* is easily distinguished from *A. barri* by its much broader form, its straw color and by the elytral vestiture which is composed of hair rather than scales. *A. ephedrae* differs from *A. palmarum* by its larger, flatter, broader form, the presence of hair rather than scales on the elytra, and by the dense felt-like tomentum rather than distinct scales of the under surface.

The writer is also aware of a species described by Kerremans under the name *Acmaeodera pallidula*. No specimens of this species were available for examination but *A. ephedrae* is undoubtedly distinct from it as *A. pallidula* lacks the dense tomentum beneath.

¹ Fall, H. C., 1899, Jour. N. Y. Ent. Soc., 7(1) :1-37.